

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Anders Fogh
Rasmussen of Denmark
May 28, 2004

President Bush. Welcome. Thanks for coming. It's always good to be with a friend. Friends are candid with each other. Friends are open, and friends are constructive. And that's the kind of conversation we've just had and will continue to have.

I told the Prime Minister that our Government and our coalition will transfer full sovereignty, complete and full sovereignty to an Iraqi government that will be picked by Mr. Brahimi of the United Nations. He said, "Do you mean full sovereignty?" I said, "I mean full sovereignty." I then told him that we're working closely in the United Nations to get a new Security Council resolution, and we're making progress on that resolution.

I spoke to Vladimir Putin this morning about the resolution, and we agreed to work together on behalf of the Iraqi people and the new government. I told him that we would come up with an arrangement that would enable us to help the Iraqi people secure their country so that the country can move toward elections. I told him I would continue to work with countries around the world to build support for the new Iraqi government so that the Iraqi people have a chance to live in a free and just society, just like we do.

I also want to thank the people of Denmark for their love of freedom, their support for human rights, and the commitment of troops to Iraq. The moms and dads of those troops need to know they're performing brilliantly, Mr. Prime Minister. They're good, strong soldiers who bring great credit to your country. I'm proud to have you here. Thanks for coming.

Prime Minister Rasmussen. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm happy to be back in the White House. I'm here as a friend and ally. And today I have confirmed that the Danish troops will stay in

Iraq. We will stay and finish our job. Our common goal is to assist the Iraqi people in building a new, modern, and democratic society.

We have a lot of negative news from Iraq. What we need now are—is some positive news. And I welcome the efforts to achieve consensus in the U.N. Security Council on a new Security Council resolution which can pave the way for the building of a democratic society in Iraq.

We need a transfer of full sovereignty to an Iraqi government, an Iraqi government which will be provided with all the signs and principles of a sovereign government. From June 30, international military presence in Iraq will be provided at request from this new Iraqi government. Our troops will stay in Iraq as long as the Iraqi government decides.

Finally, we have discussed the tragic events of prisoner abuse in Iraqi prisons. I welcome the assurance that these cases will be fully investigated and the people responsible will be held accountable. And I welcome that the necessary steps will be taken to make sure that nothing like this will happen in the future.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the importance of strength in transatlantic relations. In a few days' time, we will commemorate the 60-year anniversary of the Allied invasion of Europe. We owe a great deal to the United States and Europe. Thousands of Americans lost their lives in Europe in the fight against Nazi tyranny, in the fight for freedom. And let this commemoration also be a reminder of our shared values and shared destiny.

Thank you.

President Bush. Good job, Mr. Prime Minister. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:01 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lakhdar Brahimi,

Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Statement on the National Economy *May 28, 2004*

One year ago today, I signed into law the jobs and growth tax relief package to jump-start the economic recovery and create jobs for American workers. With our economy growing at the fastest pace in nearly 20 years and more than 1.1 million more Americans working since last August, it is clear the tax relief is working.

Take-home pay for workers is up, and disposable income for families has increased to record levels. The incentives in our plan for small businesses are producing results as more manufacturers have been reporting increased activity and new orders

than at any time in 20 years. I am encouraged to see that the unemployment rate has fallen in 47 of 50 States, because we want everyone who wants to work to be able to find a job.

There is more to do. We must continue to build on this success by expanding growth and increasing prosperity for all Americans. I look forward to working with Congress to pass my six-point plan for economic growth, including making the tax cuts permanent, and to ensure that our workers have the skills to compete in the changing world.

The President's Radio Address *May 29, 2004*

Good morning. Monday is Memorial Day, and all across America this weekend, people are remembering those who fought for freedom and who gave their lives in service to their country.

Here in the Nation's Capital, Saturday has a special significance as we dedicate the World War II Memorial in the presence of thousands of veterans of that conflict. When it mattered most, an entire generation of Americans stepped forward to fight evil and show the finest qualities of our Nation and of humanity.

The World War II Memorial will stand forever as a tribute to the generation that fought that war and to the more than 400,000 Americans who gave their lives. Because of their sacrifice, tyrants fell; fas-

cism and nazism were vanquished; and freedom prevailed.

Today, freedom faces new enemies, and a new generation of Americans has stepped forward to defeat them. Since the hour this Nation was attacked on September the 11th, 2001, we have seen the character of the men and women who wear our country's uniform. In places like Kabul and Kandahar, Mosul and Baghdad, we have seen their decency and brave spirit. And because of their fierce courage, America is safer, and two terror regimes are gone forever, and more than 50 million souls now live in freedom.

Our mission continues, and we will see it through to victory. We have a strategy to defeat our terrorist enemy and a plan to help establish lasting freedom in Iraq.